



March 13, 2007

**H.Res. 64 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Bangladesh should immediately drop all pending charges against Bangladeshi journalist Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury.**

**Floor Situation**

H.Res. 64 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Mark Kirk (R-IL) on January 16, 2007 and was ordered to be reported from the House Foreign Affairs Committee by voice vote on February 15, 2007.

H.Res. 64 is expected to be considered on the floor on March 13, 2007.

**Summary**

H.Res. 64 resolves that it is the sense of the House of Representatives that:

- The Government of Bangladesh should immediately drop all pending charges against Bangladeshi journalist Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury.
- The Government of Bangladesh should immediately return all of Mr. Choudhury's confiscated possessions; and
- The Government of Bangladesh should cease harassment and intimidation of Mr. Choudhury, take steps to protect Mr. Choudhury, and hold accountable those responsible for attacks against Mr. Choudhury.

**Background**

Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury is a Bangladeshi journalist who faces trial for sedition, an offense punishable by death in Bangladesh.

On November 29, 2003 Mr. Choudhury was arrested at Zia International Airport in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on his way to board a flight bound for Tel Aviv. Mr. Choudhury's passport was seized, along with considerable sums of money and several personal items. On that same day police raided Mr. Choudhury's home and newspaper offices, seizing files, computers, and other valuables.

Mr. Choudhury was detained in Dhaka Central Jail for a passport violation, then subsequently charged with sedition; Mr. Choudhury suffered harsh interrogation techniques and received no treatment for a debilitating case of glaucoma. Choudhury's incarceration lasted 17 months until April 30, 2005, when after intervention by the Department of State and congressional offices, Mr. Choudhury was released on bail.

Despite promises by senior members of the Bangladeshi Government that the charges would be dropped, on September 18, 2006 a judge ruled that Mr. Choudhury will stand trial for sedition.

**CBO Estimate**

H.Res. 64 has not been scored by CBO.

**Staff Contact**

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